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U. S. Department of Agriculture

BEAUTIFUL NATIVE PLANTS

FROM THE
HIGH PLAINS, BADLANDS
AND BLACK HILLS

1946



PENSTEMON ANGUSTIFOLIUS The leaves are narrow, deeply channeled and glossed with a light coating of wax that sheds water, deflects sunlight, and adds a finishing touch to an attractive blue-gray-green. Normally some loose basal rosettes of these pleasant leaves are evergreen. Typical blossom color is a melting deep azure, with a harmonizing thread of soft pink at the throat.

Climactic performance, as pictured above, may presage death, but in lean soils and with drought retarding development, heavy blossoming may occur in the fourth and fifth, even the sixth year. Exhaustion is often a trick of heavy production and fateful weather rather than mere old age, and careful husbandry will aid. Maturing a single stalk of seed satisfies the urge to reproduce, and cutting back of other stems immediately after flowering encourages setting of new rosettes for another year.

CLAUDE A. BARR

PRAIRIE GEM RANCH

SMITHWICK, S. D.

FOREWORD: To grow the Great Plains plants it is important to recognize native factors of adaptation and environment. Character and faculty have been molded in these plants by untold ages of existence where periods of moisture shortage are long and of moisture excess mostly brief. So well, indeed are they fitted that many have made no apparent effort at emigration.

Moisture retention devices in the plant structure have been developed to an outstanding degree to withstand shortage; to escape excesses the wise plants select the high places and slopes and rocky, gravelly and porous soils from which excess water readily drains away or down, and aeration thus is renewed. In general, moistness is sought, wetness avoided.

In truth, rainfall on the Plains is often too infrequent for best growth, so that correct garden environment brings willing response and surprising performance and beauty.

A recommended "scree" for replacing soils that are close textured and impervious, or too rich and moisture retentive, or to counteract inescapable shade from remote trees or other objects, is mixed from equal parts of ordinary soil, coarse sand and fine gravel or rock chips, including some lime. This provides an excellent base for all Great Plains plants. The needs of certain subjects for portions of richer soil, leafmold or other humus may be met by adding these elements, locally, in planting or in top-dressing.

SERVICE: High quality plants only are sent on your order. We do not substitute without permission. Our packing will please. In addition to culture suggested in this catalog, special advice is offered when it may prove useful, or on request. Every effort will be made to get shipments out when desired and a statement of your preferred date will be appreciated. Early shipment is best.

PRICES include prepaid delivery.

HARDY PERENNIALS

Achillaea lanulosa A pleasant little non-ramping Yarrow with heads of unusual whiteness. Suggests *A. millefolium* but flowers at 6 to 9" and travels only an inch or two a year. Clump 35c.

Actinea (Tetraneuris) simplex Small golden Gailardias, 4 to 8" above narrow silvery leaves. Fine show in June, occasionally later. 30c; 3, 75c.

Agastache anethiodora Anise Hyssop. Delightfully fragrant tall herb, with spikes of purple-blue continuously from late June. Rich soil, shade. 50c.

Anemone caroliniana Prairie Anemone. White, blue, or rarely pink, inch and a half wide, of 8 to 20 cupped segments, 4 to 10" high. Brave and dainty and jewel-like. Summer dormant. 3, 35c; doz., \$1.25.

A. patens nuttalliana Pasque Flower. Large six-pointed stars of satiny lavender, March, April. State flower, South Dakota. 35c; 3, 95c; doz., \$3.50.

Antennaria aprica Pussy-toes, Ladies' Tobacco. Broad little leaves of silvery olive in inch high evergreen mats, pussy-toe blossoms at 4". Gray-white flowered, 20c; soft pink, 25c.

Antennarias are among the most valuable all-season, slow spreading rock garden ground covers.

A. campestris Broad leaves of rich soft deep green, white beneath; "toes," white or silvery. 30c.

A. microphylla Tiny bluish silver leaves in charming pattern and texture. White furry "toes." 35c.

A. obovata Like a larger aprica; gray "toes." 20c.

A. rosea Narrower leaved than aprica, with "toes" of rich deep rose. Strikingly lovely, new. 50c.

Arenaria hookeri Showers of white flowers in June. Tap-rooted, needle-leaved plant of rich deep green for dry scree or lime gravel. 50c.

Artemisia frigida Low, tufted, feathery, silvery and fragrant Sage. Arching silvery spikes with tiny yellowish bells, August. 25c; 3, 65c.

Asclepias pumila 8" Milkweed with abundant upright umbels of creamy white, mid-summer, on. Easily controlled. Also very rare light pink. Either, 30c.

Aster fendleri Charming new 10 to 12" Aster, selected type, covered with dainty cupped lilac-blue blossoms, September. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

A. kumleini Prairie Gem Blue. One of the finest native Asters, a broad 12" high sheet of blue and gold, September. Unequaled selection. 40c; 3, 90c.

A. kumleini Choice varieties, "dream of beauty" pink and lacy silver blue. To 15". Each 35c.

A. meritus Rare dwarf Aster with special merit of July flowering. 8 to 12". Much admired pinkish violet in closely set corymbs. 50c; 3, \$1.10.

A. ptarmicoides (Unamia alba). Cream centered, white rayed, long season beauty, beginning in July. 10 to 15". Lasting cut flower. 30c; 3, 75c.

Astragalus crassicaarpus Buffalo Pea, Ground Plum. Maytime bloom of blended purple, pink and buff, in June spread-out clusters of red cheeked fruits like small plums. 40c; 3, \$1.10.

A. goniatus Lavender bonnets accented with purple amid green lace leafage, June, August. 4 to 8". May need confining. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

A. gilviflorus (Orophaca caespitosa). Low Milk Vetch. Cushion of silvery tri-part leaves with a snow of stemless blossoms in April and May. 30c; 3, 75c.

A. missouriensis Brilliant display of magenta-purple on a 12 to 20" circle of prostrate stems. 35c.

A. spatulatus (Homalobus caespitosus). One of the beautiful treasures of the rock gardener's world, cushion, studded with blue-purple. 35c; 3, 90c.

A. tridactylicus Red Orophaca. A silvery cushion blossoming into delightful lavender-rose. These tap-rooted cushions need lean limy scree. 50c.

Callirhoe involucrata Poppy Mallow, Wine Cups. Deep glossy cups of intense wine red, long summer season. Trailing stems to 25". 25c; 3, 65c.

Campanula petiolata Western Harebell. Blue-purple or lavender flaring bells in profusion, June and later. 8 to 18". 30c; 3, 85c.

Cerastium strictum Earth hugging mat of vivid deep green, multitudinous white flowers, to 8", May to July. Like a larger C. arvense. Clump, 25c.

Chrysopsis villosa Golden Aster. Massed beauty in

richest tone, Aug.-Sept. 12". For best effect shear back to 4" in June. Finest type, 30c; 3, 75c.

Leucocrinum montanum Sand Lily. Fragrant, waxy white, gold stamened, stemless little Lilies in bountiful succession, from a tuft of grassy leaves, April, May. Cover roots 2". 35c; 3, 85c; doz., \$3.00.

Clematis (Viorna) scotti Leather-flower. Glaucous plant, intriguing urns of blue or purple. May, June. Silky seed plumes. 12". 50c; 3, \$1.25.

C. (Atragene) tenuiloba Surprising large half-open, nodding purple blossoms on half trailing stems, to 8 or 10". May, June. Spreads slowly, in rich soil, light shade. Distinct, rare. 75c; 3, \$2.00.

Dalea (Parosela) aurea Rare, novel and exotic appearing plant of silvery green and airy light yellow in Prairie Clover effect, 10 to 16". 50c.

D. (Parosela) enneandra Quite different, with white and silver in slender swaying racemes, 24" or more up. Bloom effect, June-August. 30c; 3, 85c.

Dodecatheon pauciflorum (vulgare: Hortus) As many as 15 beautiful rose and gold blossoms to the umbel. This 4 to 10" gem is the most adaptable of the Shooting Stars. 40c; 3, \$1.00; doz., \$3.50.

Echinacea angustifolia Pink Coneflower. Wide rosy rays about a glossy mahogany cone. Strikingly different and beautiful. Foliage to 5", blossoms at 10 to 14". 30c; 3, 75c; doz., \$2.50.

Erigeron caespitosus Inch wide Daisies of fine white and gold, 4 to 8". One of the best. 50c.

E. flagellaris Whiplash Daisy. Bountiful little white and gold blossoms in long season. Ground cover, with runners. Clump, 25c; 100 plants, \$2.50.

E. macranthus To 16", fine lavender-blue Daisies in wide corymbs, July. 40c.

E. nematophyllus White and gold jewels of May and June, inch wide, crowded, at 5", above a green cushion of narrow leaves. Scree. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

Erigeron Prairie Gem Like flagellaris but more dainty, less invasive, greener, lobed leaved. 50c.

Eriogonum flavum Beautiful all-season mats of rich green felted leaves, large fluffy umbels of soft yellow, in June. 4 to 12". Scree. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

Evolvulus nuttallianus Bushlet of silky gray with quaint, half-inch lavender Morning-glories. 35c.

Gutierrezia sarothrae Golden Dome. Countless fine stems and leaves of vivid green form a hemisphere that turns to glowing gold in September. 12". 35c.

Hedeoma camporum Perennial Pennyroyal. Trim 8" rounded bushlet, flushed with pink-lavender Mint blossoms, June, on. Finely fragrant. 35c; 3, 75c.

Iris missouriensis Slender upright foliage, graceful blossoms of silvery blue, to 18". June. 35c.

Lathyrus incanus Sand Pea. Purple-rose banners, pink to white wings, large blossoms in clusters of two to seven, May. 4 to 10". Stem and leaf glaucous, downy. **L. ornatus** is glabrous, and often brighter in banner. These are spreaders worth controlling. Either, 35c; 3, 80c.

Lesquerella spatulata Bladder-Pod. A gem one must see, dainty, festive in brightest yellow Crucifer blossoms, May-July. 4", spread 10". Beautiful gray-green rosettes. Scree with lime. 35c; 3, 80c.

Liatris intermedia Handsome dwarf Blazing Star, a 16" L. squarrosa. Fine purple, late summer. 40c.

L. ligulistylis Blazing Star. Lovely showy clear purple, inch wide flower heads, 10 to 30 or 40 in erect spike, 18" or higher, July. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

L. punctata Dwarf Gayfeather. Fine transparent purple in dense fluffy spikes, 8 to 14", August. Foliage low. Sun, dry lean soil. 30c; 3, 75c.

Lithophragma parviflora Woodland Star. Slashed stars of white in capitate raceme, 4" in May to 12", June. Rich soil. Tiny tubers. 3, 35c; doz., \$1.25.

Lithospermum linearifolium Fringed Puccoon. Soft glowing yellow ruffled trumpets, May, 6 to 12". Free blooming, charming. 30c; 3, 70c.

Malvastrum coccineum Flame Mallow. Arresting salmon-scarlet in short dense spires, to 10". Long season. Leaves deep cut, grayish. 35c; 3, 90c.

Mertensia lanceolata Prairie Bluebell. As thrilling as the first bluebird come April clusters of bloom at 3", then more lavish blossoming till late June. Never above 10". Summer dormant. 35c; 3, 85c.

Nothocalais (Agoseris) cuspidata Rich textured 2" wide golden blossoms, April, May, from ground cluster of wavy, white margined leaves. 40c; 3, 90c.

Oenothera (Pachylophus) caespitosa Gumbo Lily; Cowboy Lily. Great snowy fragrant Evening Primroses upon the ground, in a patch of glossy lanceolate leaves. Open all day, May-August. Recommended soil mixture. 35c; 3, 75c.

Oe. (Galpinsia) lavandulaefolia Squarish upright blossoms of rich yellow, freely, June to frost. Open most of day. 4 to 6". Foliage grayish. Suitable for the most select company. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

Oe. (Meriolix) serrulata Bushlet, 10" or so, with an unparalleled display of inch-wide gems of bright yellow. Open all day, May to August. 30c; 3, 75c.

Rare form with double-size blossoms, each 50c.

Oe. (Hartmannia) speciosa 3", day-blooming fragrant white flowers, to 12". Long season. Mrs. Wilder said, "So altogether engaging that one is tolerant of its colonizing." 35c; 3, 75c.

Oxytropis lamberti Purple Loco. Rich spectacular plumes of Pea florets, red-purple to blue, light to dark, 12". Low silvery foliage. June. 30c; 3, 75c.

Penstemon angustifolius Pictured and described on cover. 30c; 3, 75c; doz., \$2.50.

Scree or much sand is advised for all Penstemons.

P. crandalli Evergreen creeper making broad mats, covered with upturned bells of blue in June. For light shade and moderate dryness. Clump, 50c.

P. eriantherus Showy warm lavender with prominent tongues of gold, and very lovely. June, 8 to 12". Some sticky clay and lime in scree. 25c; 3, 65c.

P. glaber Fine dark blue, to 18" or more, June, July, and again if cut back promptly. 35c; 3, 90c.

P. gracilis A light and graceful smaller flowered kind, in amethyst. 12", June, July. 30c; 3, 70c.

P. grandiflorus The stately Shell-leaf. Cool deep lavender and gray-green. 30", June. 35c; 3, 90c.

P. nitidus Three weeks earlier than angustifolius, lower, deeper blue, and indispensable. 35c; 3, 90c.

Petalostemon purpureus Prairie Clover. Circlets of

orange-dotted purple-red, on deep green cones, June, July. 15". Scree or sand. 35c; 3, 85c.

P. villosus Velvet Prairie Clover. Plump cones of soft silvery rose and silvery green, lovely and decorative. July, Sept. 12". Same culture. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

Phlox alyssifolia Bounty of soft lavender pink, inch wide, fragrant blossoms, May, June. 3 to 5". Leaves lanceolate, edged white. Slow mat former, any well drained soil, luxuriates in scree with a little richness. Half shade first summer. 30c; 3, 80c.

P. andicola Large blossomed creeping Phlox of the high prairies, blooming from April through June; 4". Same culture, this and following as for *alyssifolia*. 25c; 3, 65c; doz., \$2.35.

New blue-lavender, choice blossom form, 40c; 3, 90c.
New lovely powder blue, 50c.

Select extra large white, 45c; 3, \$1.10.

P. hoodi Mossy green, snowed over with lovely little blossoms, April, May. Very slow spreading, finally making wide mats. 35c; 3, 85c; doz., \$3.00.

P. longifolia Handsome upright species, to 6"; cluster flowered, producing wide masses of mauve pink, in May. Leaves dark green. 50c; 3, \$1.25.

P. scleranthifolia Free flowering white, thrilling in its wide dense mats or trailing down over rocks; May. Permanent light shade. New. 50c.

Phlox Little Cheyenne (*hoodi* x *andicola*) Most perfect little blossoms imaginable, shining white with the usual speck of gold. May. 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Potentilla divisa Astounding beauty in sunlit yellow from a tuft of silvered leaves, early May. 3", with a spread of 10". 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Psoralea esculenta Indian Turnip. Thick cone-shaped heads of mauve-blue that age to buff. 12". "Fairly pretty," said Mrs. Fox. 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Sedum stenopetalum Bronzy green clustered rosettes, to an inch or so, showy heads of metallic yellow, to 6". June, July. Shade, thin soil. 40c.

Senecio purshianus Plant of nice habit, displaying airy light gold blossoms, in June, at 8 or 9" from a dense gray leaf patch. Evergreen. 35c; 3, 75c.

Sideranthus spinulosus Massed inch wide Asters in light gold, Sept.-Oct. Dense low type, 6"; fine textured frosty foliage. For hot sun. 30c; 3, 7c.

Solidago glaberrima Dwarf selection of Smooth Goldenrod, 10 to 12", with charming, broad, nodding-tipped panicles. Aug. Moderate traveler. 25c.

S. mollis Very attractive Goldenrod bearing billowy heads at 4 to 12"; Sept. Slow traveler. 25c.

S. pulcherrima September beauty in groups of plump tapering rods, to 16". Non-traveler. 50c.

S. wardi Upright rods of golden beauty, to 30", lovely with September Asters. Non-spreading. 35c.

Talinum parviflorum Little Sunbright. Airy rosy blossoms every summer afternoon, to 7", from a 2" tuft of succulent leaves. Tiny tubers, 3, 35c.

Thalictrum venulosum Especially good faintly bluish foliage masses, to 8", for all-season effect. Bronzy bloom to 15 to 18". 35c; 3, 70c.

Thermopsis rhombifolia Dwarf Golden Pea. Broad packed racemes of glowing medium yellow, May. 8 to 12". Unusual, beautiful. Colonizer. 35c; 3, 85c.

Townsendia exscapa Easter Daisy. Tuffet of narrow silvery evergreen leaves, incredibly wide glow-

ing pink Daisies, all under 2" of height, April, May. For dryest leanest scree. 35c; 3, 85c.

T. sericea Similar habit and more dwarf, one of the very first of the Plains' responses to spring. Early April. White or delicate pink. 35c; 3, 85c.

Tradescantia bracteata Rainbow Spiderwort. Blues and purples, bright rose, many others. Bloom begins at 4" in June, continues to 10" in late summer. Each 20c; mixed colors, 3, 55c; doz., \$2.00.

Sky blue, white, Appleblossom pink, each 35c.

Verbena bipinnatifida Continuous show in bright blue-lilac, May to October; low, trailing. Hardy, but avoid winter wet at the crowns. 30c; 3, 75c.

Viola adunca A smiling little old man in deep blue. Often blooms in autumn. Part shade. 25c; 3, 65c.

V. nephrophylla A lovely big blue Violet that likes much moisture through flowering time. 35c; 3, 85c.

V. nuttalli The Violet of brilliant gold of the dry open plains. Heavy producer, April through May, 3 to 6"; sun or light shade. 30c; 3, 50c.

V. pedatifida Showy blossoms of sky blue carried above deeply incised leaves. Stemless. Any soil, light shade or sun. 35c; 3, 80c.

V. rugulosa White with violet pencilings; 6 to 12". Spreads by short stolons. Part shade. Clump, 35c.

Yucca glauca Most northerly ranging Yucca, with white edged, bayonet-like evergreen leaves, to 20". Flower spike or panicle, 36 to 40", of pendant creamy bells, June, July. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

FOR GARDENS IN HALF SHADE and moderately rich soil, well drained, are: *Achillaea lanulosa*, *Agastache anethiodora*, *Allium cernuum*, *Anemone patens*, *Antennarias aprica*, *campestris*, *microphylla* and *rosea*, *Asters meritus* and *ptarmicoides*, *Campanula petiolata*, *Cerastium strictum*, *Clematis tenuiloba*, *Dodecatheon pauciflorum*, *Erigerons caespitosus* and *macranthus*, *Iris missouriensis*, *Liatris ligulistylis*, *Lilium umbellatum*, *Lithophragma parviflora*, *Penstemon gracilis*, *Phloxes alyssifolia*, *hoodi* and *scleranthifolia*, *Sedum stenopetalum*, *Thalictrum venulosum*, and, excepting *V. nuttalli*, all the Violets. With adequate moisture, however, much sun is equally agreeable to these shade tolerant kinds.

BULBS FOR FALL PLANTING

Allium cernuum Nodding Onion. Umbels of light shell pink, July; to 16". 3, 35c; doz., 75c.

A. textile Broad upright umbels of green ribbed white stars, at 8", May. Dormant in summer. Alliums may be moved in spring. 3, 20c; doz., 40c.

Brodiaea douglasi Ample umbels of waxy blue-lavender, to 20", June. Beautiful, and easy. Long slender leaves of green. 3, 35c; doz., 80c.

Calochortus gunnisoni Gunnison Mariposa. Very lovely white chalice with clusters of greenish hairs, July; 16". Grassy leaves. 3, 35c; doz., \$1.00.

C. nuttalli Sego Lily, Mariposa Tulip. Sun-reflecting white with gold and maroon markings, June; 12". Slender glaucous leaves. 3, 30c; doz., 85c.

Lilium umbellatum True species. Orange red, to 4" wide, June, July; 1 to 3 upright blossoms at 10 to 18". Rich gritty soil, 4" deep, cool position, perfect drainage. Blooming size, 30c; one-inch, 40c.

Zygadenus gramineus False Camas. Massed creamy stars in a haze of golden stamens, erect spires, 8 to 16", June. Grassy leaves. 3, 20c; doz., 60c.

COLD CLIMATE CACTI

Cultural directions: The following species will bear 30 degrees below zero, or more, out of doors, but must be prepared for it by drying and shriveling in advance of winter. Planting in an ample depth of 9 parts of gravel and coarse sand to one part of good loam, has been found to produce lavish bloom and also to provide the requisite drainage.

Coryphantha vivipara Ball, to 3" or more, showy carmine flowers, June. 30c; 3, 75c.

Echinocereus caespitosus Cylindric, with spiny ribs, to 4 or 5", very handsome blossoms of deep lavender. 50c each.

E. viridiflorus Cylindric, 3 to 4" tall; bright colored spines, glossy green-yellow blossoms, June. 25c; 3, 60c.

Opuntia fragilis Brittle Cactus, a pygmy Prickly Pear, with surprisingly large yellow blossoms, centered red, June. Free blooming strains. 25c; 3, 60c.

O. polyacantha Many-spined Prickly Pear. 4" or larger sections, 4" silken yellow blooms. 30c; 3, 75c.

O. humifusa Sections 4 to 6", spines fewer; largest of silken yellow flowers, red filaments, late June. Ripe "pears" dark red, showy. 30c; 3, 75c.

Larger specimens of Prickly Pears on quotation.

SHRUBS

Amorpha canescens Lead Plant. Low, gray velvety effect, with orange-dotted purple fingers of blossom, June, July. Usually 12 to 25". 75c.

Artemisia cana Rather stiff erect gray Sage, to 2 or 3'. Leaves lance-linear, 1½ inches long. 60c.

A. filifolia Sand Sage. Very attractive, pleasantly fragrant, silvery, much branched bush. 2 to 3'. 50c.

A. tridentata Sagebrush. Blue-silvered three-tipped little leaves, rather erect bushy plant. At its eastern range limit, near Prairie Gem Ranch, heights vary from 12 to 30". Nice fragrance. 75c.

Atriplex canescens Salt Bush. Gray-green in branch and leaf, a broad densely branched bush, to 24". Conspicuous fruit bracts, gray-green. 60c.

Cercocarpus montanus Mountain Mahogany. Little toothed leaves slightly grayish, blossoms interesting, seed plumes silvery silky, reflecting light. Pleasing in shrubbery groups. Upright, slow growing, ultimately to 8'. \$1.00.

Chrysothamnus graveolens Rabbit Brush. Bright green, fine textured bush to 3' or so, every upper branch carrying a head of Goldenrod-like blossom in September. Striking seasonal effect. 50c.

Eurotia lanata White Sage. A sagey appearing plant, holding its leaves well into winter, and adding white seed tufts in fall. 40c.

Rhus trilobata Lemonade Sumach. Spreading or more erect bush, usually 2 to 5', moderately dense, dark green. Dark red fruit clusters, magnificent autumn leaf coloring. 60c.

Rose J. W. Fargo A double wild rose of about 40 petals and beautiful form, "wholly delightful wild rose pink." Blossoms in clusters over many weeks, mainly July. Usually 12 to 20". \$1.00.